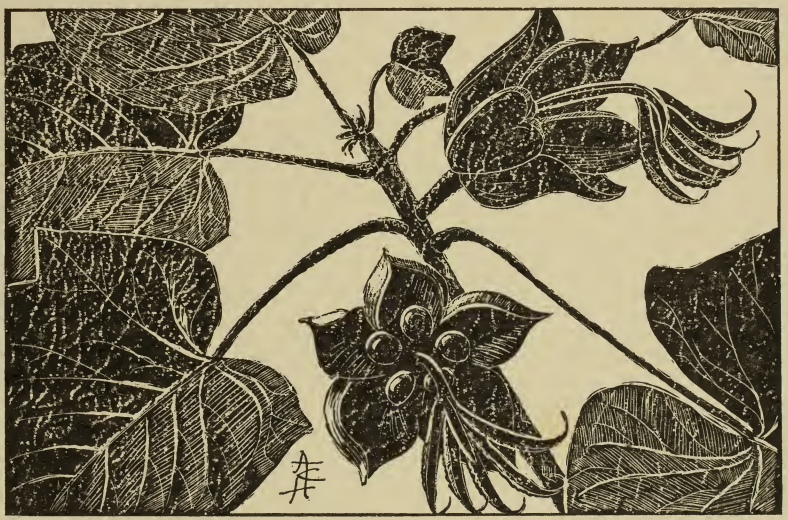
California GARDEN

FORTY-FOURTH YEAR SPRING, 1953 VOLUME 44, NO. 1



Chiranthodendron — Devils-Hand — Alfred C. Hottes — see page 10

CONTENTS

FOREST TREES ALSO HAVE PESTS
F. P. Keen
CYMBIDIUM GROWING IN SAN DIEGO
Clarisse Carlton
THE ANNUAL FLORAL SHOW
Guy L. Fleming
GROWING DAHLIAS FROM SEED
Rose Marie Comstock
LEAVES FROM THE OBSERVER'S NOTEBOOK
Marion Almy Lippitt
NEW BOOKS
Ada McLouth
DEVILS-HAND—CHIRANTHODENDRON
Alfred C. Hottes
JULIAN SHOW
Myrtle Botts
HOW DO YOU FERTILIZE YOUR CAMELLIAS?
IT'S FUN TO GROW CAMELLIAS
Lucien C. Atherton
WHY ANOTHER FLOWER SHOW?
Alice M. Clark
GARDEN CHORES
Ada Perry

PUBLISHED BY

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Price 25 Cents

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Published Quarterly by the
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Under the sponsorship of
The Park and Recreation Dept.,
City of San Diego

•

Editor.....Mabel Hazard
Art Editor.....Alfred C. Hottes
Advertising Managers.....Alice M. Greer
Guy L. Fleming

•

Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879. The California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association. Subscriptions to the California Garden, $1.00 per year: Foreign Countries and Canada, $1.25.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

•

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

TUESDAY April 21 . . . . . 8 p.m.
In Floral Building. Mr. George H. Spalding—Superintendent of Los Angeles State and County Arboretum will speak on the Arboretum, and trees and shrubs in general.

•

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 11-12—Rose Show in Recital Hall.

April 18-19—Coronado Flower Show, South Plaza of Coronado Park.

April 19—Convair Rose Show in Floral Building.

May 23-24—San Diego Floral Association Spring Flower Show in Recital Hall.

June 3-4-5-6—California Garden Clubs, Inc., will hold their State Convention at the Coronado Hotel. Mr. Alfred Hottes, of San Diego Floral Association, is serving on the program committee, and has been invited to give a program. San Diego Floral Association will provide entertainment one day. A tour of Balboa Park under the chairmanship of Mrs. Harlie Brown, followed by tea in the Floral Building served by Mrs. Mark Baldwin and her Hospitality Committee.

•

AFFILIATE MEMBERS
San Diego Floral Association, March, 1953

ORGANIC GARDENING CLUB—Third Friday, Flor. Bldg.
President: Mr. Phillip Hillkowitz
1607 Mission Cliff Drive, W-8-3354
San Diego 16.
Rep. Dir. Mr. Phillip Hillkowitz

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY—First Tuesday, Flor. Bldg.
President: Col. Carl R. Adams
450 Rosemont St., G-5-7083
La Jolla
Rep. Dir. Mrs. A. P. Carleton
624 Arroyo Drive, W-1493
San Diego 1.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—Second Friday, Flor. Bldg.
President: Capt. F. E. Vensel
9419 Sierra Vista, H-6-4841
La Mesa
Rep. Rir. J. Wells Hershey
Arch and Ave. Winter Gardens, H-4-1913
San Diego 7.

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY—Third Monday Flor. Bldg.
President: Byron Lindsley
6138 Madrid Drive, T-1-8379
San Diego
Rep. Dir. Byron Lindsley

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Balboa Park
San Diego 1, California

•

OFFICERS

President.....Mrs. Eugene Daney, Jr.
Vice-President.....Mrs. Harlie H. Brown
Recording Secy.....Mrs. George Heyneman
Corresponding Secy.....Mrs. Roland Hoyt
Treasurer.....W. Allen Perry

•

DIRECTORS

Mrs. John Clark
Paul Crandall
Mrs. Samuel Durr
Stanley Miller
Miss Jane Minshall
Mrs. J. Terrell Scott

CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB—Second Wednesday, Flor. Bldg.
President: Carl Baiter
529 Colima, G-5-4636
La Jolla
Rep. Dir. Eugene Zimmerman
1942 Abbe, W-7-3383

SAN DIEGO BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY—Fourth Monday, Flor. Bldg.
President: Mrs. A. B. Roat
321 W. Lewis, W-5-6531
Rep. Dir. Mrs. Charlotte Lamp
3205-28th, T-1-2123

SAN DIEGO BRANCH NATIONAL FUCHSIA SOCIETY—Second Monday, Flor. Bldg.
President: Mrs. O. D. Hamilton
3738-32nd St., T-2475
San Diego 1.
Re. Dir. Mrs. George T. Young
3581 Louisiana St., W-4705
San Diego 4.

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION — Fourth Tuesday
President: Maj. Ennalls Waggaman
848 Glorietta Blvd., H-3-3044
Coronado
Rep. Dir. Mrs. Mark Villim
P.O. Box 176, H-3-3016
Coronado

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY—Fourth Tuesday
3503 Yosemite, H-8-4375
San Diego
Rep. Dir. Thos. B. Getz
2519 San Marcos Ave., R-7656

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER CALIF, ASSN. OF NURSERYMEN—Third Thursday
President: Mr. Ernest Otto
3572 Logan Ave. M-2871
Rep. Dir. Mr. Walter Anderson
2016 Denver St., W-5-0428 or W-6-6231
San Diego 10.

Unless indicated, the affiliates hold their meetings elsewhere than in Floral Building.

For use of the Floral Building for meetings or flower shows, the affiliates are requested to check the calendar for vacant time by calling either Mrs. Mark Baldwin, W-5-6290 or Miss Etta Schneider, M-5887.

ROSE COURT
Floral Co.

The Freshest Flowers . . .
For Every Occasion

CORSAGES
WEDDING DECORATIONS

Plants for the Home
Plants for the Garden

3698 Reynard Way **Phone W-3169**

When friends and relatives come to visit be sure to show them La Jolla with its famous beaches and its fascinating shops.

The Green Dragon Colony is one of the choice spots in La Jolla and one of the choice spots in the Colony is

GERARD and SANDS
American, European Handicrafts
1268 Prospect St.
The Home of
the La Jolla Honeycomb Candle

California Garden

FORTY-FOURTH YEAR SPRING, 1953 VOL. 44, NO. 1

Pests on forest trees may have their place in the natural balance of nature, but Mr. Keen recommends constant vigilance to keep the beetles from getting out of hand.

Forest Trees Also Have Pests

F. P. Keen

Every gardener is fully aware of the constant battle which must be waged against insect and disease pests if one is to reap the reward of attractive plants and flowers. On the other hand, forest trees seem so naturally healthy, that it comes as something of a surprise to learn that they, too, have their insect and disease pests which foresters must combat if the natural beauty and productiveness of our forested hills and mountains are to be preserved and timber saved for man's use.

Here in San Diego County, as elsewhere in the State and in the West, the pines and firs which grace our mountain ranges, such as Palomar, the Volcans, Cuyamaca,Laguna and Corte Madera are attacked and killed by several species of pine bark beetles and cambium borers. Frequently epidemics of these beetles are so severe as to destroy large groups, or even whole hillsides, of trees in the matter of a few months time.

In ponderosa and Coulter pines, the worst offender is the western pine beetle *Dendroctonus brevicomis.* In the adult stage this is a small brown beetle no larger than a house fly. Thousands of these beetles, emerging from pines which have been killed, fly to neighboring susceptible trees to establish new colonies. On mating, each pair bores through the outer bark into the cambium zone, where they construct egg tunnels about one-eighth inch in diameter and approximately 18 inches in length. A network of intertwining tunnels from many pairs of beetles serves to girdle and kill the attacked trees. A successful attack requires about 12 pairs of parent adults per square foot of bark or about 6000 beetles are required to kill an average-sized pine.

Eggs laid along the sides of the egg tunnels hatch in about a week and the small larvae first feed in the inner bark, then enter the outer bark where they grow to full size, about as large as a grain of rice. Here in the outer bark, the larvae transform to pupae, or the resting stage, and then become beetles. These emerge individually from the bark, leaving small round exit holes which make the bark appear as though peppered with birdshot. Then they take flight in search of a mate and another host tree.

There are three and sometimes four generations of this beetle produced each year in San Diego County, depending upon temperature and the length of the growing season. There are only two generations in the northern part of its range, which extends from San Diego County north into British Columbia and eastward into Montana. So here sometimes four sets of trees may be killed each year, thus increasing its destructiveness.

Another enemy common to all pines is the red turpentine beetle, *Dendroctonus valens.* It is similar in shape to the western pine beetle, but much larger and stouter, being about three-eighths inch long. It attacks the base of pines, not often higher than six feet from the ground and into the larger roots below ground. Its work is characterized by large red masses of pitch oozing from the bark at the point of attack, while under the bark will be found a short egg tunnel and a cavity between bark and wood made by the large white grubs which feed en masse. These beetles seldom kill a tree alone, but once several pairs have made an attack, the tree is usually weakened and other beetles come in to finish the job.

These beetles are especially bad in attacking trees around summer homes or campgrounds where the soil is trampled or trees are injured by chopping and nail holes. It also commonly breeds in freshly cut pine stumps, and is attracted to lumber piles. Of late years many trees in the Laguna and Julian areas have been killed by this species of beetle.

The Jeffrey pines on Mt. Laguna, in Pine Valley, and around Julian have still another beetle enemy, namely, the California flatheaded borer *Melanophila californica.* These beetles are flatly oval, about one-half inch in length, with a metallic greenish bronze underneath. After feeding on the needles for awhile to ob-

tain sexual maturity, female beetles lay eggs in the crevices of the bark of Jeffrey, ponderosa and other pines. The small grubs on hatching burrow beneath the bark and take up residence in the cambium layer. Here they remain in an incipient stage, like tapeworms in a dog, until the tree becomes weakened. Then they develop a rapid stage of growth and proceed to girdle and kill the infested tree. If the tree remains healthy, the incipient larvae die out in two or three years. Nearly all the Jeffrey pines on Mt. Laguna appear to have these flatheaded larvae just waiting for the day when drought or fire may weaken the trees sufficiently for them to complete their destructive work.

There are many other beetles which feed in or on our forest trees, but those mentioned above are the most destructive in San Diego County. Other classes of insects such as caterpillars, sawflies, aphids and scales feed on the foliage of both coniferous and deciduous trees, often completely defoliating trees and bringing about their death. For instance, in Oregon and Washington a recent outbreak of the spruce budworm threatened destruction of almost 3,000,000 acres of Douglas fir and true firs. Aerial spraying of this area at a cost of about a dollar an acre is apparently bringing this outbreak under control. Fortunately, none of these defoliators has caused serious damage to the forest trees of San Diego County.

What to do About Them—

You are probably wondering what can be done about these forest insect pests. In the first place, it should be recognized that these are native insects which probably have always been associated with these forest trees and have their place in the natural balance of nature. Normally we wouldn't expect to do anything about them as long as they confine their attacks to a few old, sickly trees. It is when they exceed their normal activities and become epidemic that we have to worry and take steps to suppress them.

In nature, bark beetles and other forest insects are normally held in check by parasites, predators and birds. Woodpeckers are particularly effective in hunting for and digging bark beetles out of the tree trunks—never soon enough to save a tree from death—but at least soon enough to prevent the beetles from emerging and attacking other trees. When trees are weakened by drought or fire and become easy prey to bark beetles, or where large numbers of beetles are bred up in road slashings, logging slash or windfalls, then the pine beetles get beyond the ability of their enemies to cope with them and a large number of thrifty pines may be killed.

There are two steps which can be taken by foresters or timber owners to avoid excessive damage. Outbreaks can often be prevented by (1) disposing of slashings from pine-timber cuttings through lopping and scattering it in full sunlight and (2) making light sanitation-salvage cuttings of the weakest, most unhealthy trees in the stand thus removing potential bug fodder, and preventing a buildup of beetle populations.

Once an epidemic has started, the only thing that can be done is to join in a community effort to suppress the outbreak by felling and burning the infested trees or spraying them with a toxic penetrating oil. Any community project of this kind calls for expert advice and assistance of the technical forest entomologist most familiar with these problems. This service the U. S. Department of Agriculture is prepared to give through its Forest Insect Investigations Division of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Also, the State Board of Forestry can be called upon to help finance the work on private land, usually on a 50-50 basis. Control work on this basis was started at Julian in 1947, but was dropped after a couple of years when the private timber owners found themselves unable to meet their share of the expense.

There is no quick or easy cure for stopping forest insect damage. We can never hope to eradicate our native beetles. If trees are worth protecting, constant vigilance is necessary, plus a continuing program of control whenever the beetles get out of hand. Just as in our flower gardens, eternal vigilance and repeated sprays are needed to keep the ever present hordes of bugs in check.

"It is difficult to realize how great a part of all that is cheerful and delightful in the recollections of our own lives is associated with trees." Wilson Flagg.

"A lesson in each flower,
A story in each tree and bower,
In every herb on which we tread
Are written words, which rightly read,
Will lead us from earth's fragrant sod
To hope, and holiness, to God."
17th century poem.

PATRONIZE

OUR ADVERTISERS

BRADFORD CAMELLIA GARDENS

over 300 varieties

•

3553 Fairmount Ave.

R-1311

Mrs. Austin P. Carlton takes much of the mystery out of the growing of orchids, admits that this hobby is a constant challenge and stimulation.

Cymbidium Growing in San Diego

Clarisse Carlton

As we ponder the subject "Cymbidium Growing in San Diego," the one fact that remains completely clear and unquestioned is the very short number of years that Cymbidiums have been grown in this area. Indeed Cymbidium growing for Southern California for the most part falls into that same category. By the same token probably no other plant has received in so short a time such searching scrutiny, been the subject of so many experiments, and been so controversial as these self same Cymbidiums.

At the present time comprehensive experiments are being conducted to determine optimum conditions for Cymbidiums. The unique facilities of the Earhart Plant Research Laboratory at California Institute of Technology have been made available for this exacting work. Extensive studies, which should provide the basis for further work, have been made of the natural habitat of these orchids. Exhaustive experiments have been conducted relative to composts and seedling growing. All members of the Cymbidium Society, Inc., cooperate in sharing their observations; thus an invaluable pool of information is available to those interested. The net result of this program is that much has been accomplished in a very short time. Because Cymbidium flowers have become a commercial crop of tremendous value, research of the above type is of great economic importance to the State.

Many articles have appeared recently in local and national publications problaiming that Cymbidiums are easy to grow. Yes, they are easy to grow provided certain conditions are present. The time is past, however, when one is told just to put the plant in his back yard and forget it. True, the Cymbidium will survive under the most adverse conditions, but certainly something better than just survival is the aim of those purchasing plants.

These lovely orchids can be grown out of doors in this locality with some protection against full sun. Lath house conditions that are provided for most of our gegonias, camellias, fuschias, and kindred plants are right for Cymbidiums also. An acid type soil, open and friable, is the accepted medium for best growing. We use a mixture of about one-half redwood shavings mixed with very coarse leaf mold, with coarse bone meal added at potting time. And since the quality of leaf mold we desire has not been available here, we composted pine shavings and steer manure to use instead. Cymbidium composts have fluctuated from very complex mixtures to simple leaf mold and while there are growers who feel their complex mixture is best, it does seem that the general trend is toward the more simple medium. The desirable qualities are an acid condition, good drainage and a loose, or coarse mixture.

Unless there is obviously something wrong with your plant that demands immediate attention in the way of examining the root system and repotting, the best time for breaking your plant and repotting is immediately after blooming, or if the plant did not bloom, then in January or February. That way the plant is sufficiently settled to go into its natural growing period with plenty of time for proper bulb development in order to produce spikes the following season. It is very often, however, that newly potted plants do not bloom that first season following the operation—then again, surprisingly enough, a plant that has been severely divided will produce bloom spikes on every division. No one yet has come up with a truly good explanation as to why one plant will react one way and another the opposite. In fact, just as soon as one formulates a perfectly good theory as to why a certain result is achieved, someone else produces facts to prove your theory wrong! Perhaps that is what has made Cymbidium growing such a fascinating hobby for so many people —they are a constant challenge and stimulation.

In breaking a plant it is well to shake or wash off all the old compost. Do this carefully, to save as many of the roots as possible. Dead roots and injured roots should be trimmed off. Indeed, it is usually desirable to root-prune or trim the good roots also to some extent so that danger of breaking the roots is minimized when placing the plant back into the container. New branches from the old roots will develop soon. By gently twisting and bending the plant it is usually clearly indicated where the proper division should be made. If that is not so, try to keep these bulbs as a division. Plants can be broken into single bulbs if one is anxious to

increase his stock of a certain plant in a hurry; however, bloom is naturally sacrificed for some time in that event.

It is particularly important to see that newly-divided and potted plants are kept a bit on the dry side for about 10 days after the job has been done. Use moist compost and while humidity should be maintained fairly high, very little watering of the compost itself should be necessary. Syringing of the leaves during the day is beneficial.

See that the pot or tub is well provided with crock for drainage and do not be tempted to overpot to any extent. Most Cymbidiums will produce flowers sooner if they are a bit crowded. Instead of over-potting, it is better to be prepared to slip-pot as the plant needs additional growing space. In this way the plant is not disturbed and should proceed in its natural course of events.

When the plant is being divided it is probable that some back bulbs will be involved. These are the bulbs that have lost their foliage and usually their roots. These bulbs should be removed in most cases and from them new plants may be started. Clean them carefully, being watchful that the eyes close to the bottom of the bulbs are not injured. If you have no provision for starting these bulbs, place them in the pot right side up with the plant and often they will sprout new growth and roots, at which time they should be potted by themselves.

Needless to say a glass house is most desirable at a time like this! Then the back bulbs can be placed in empty pots in the glass house where humidity is high. Soon the new sprouts will appear and as soon as little roots develop the new plant may be potted. At this time use a mixture that contains no fertilizers, such as Ashton's E-Z-R Grow. We have found that our back bulb propagations have done by far the best when placed in pots with only pea gravel. These necessarily have to be watered very often, but a very strong root action is induced so that when the plant is quite well developed both in top growth and in roots, and then placed into the growing medium, they continue very rapid growth.

Here, again, there are about as many ways to treat back bulbs as there are people growing them; however, we have probably tried about all the recommended methods and find the above to be the most satisfactory.

As to the feeding of Cymbidiums we believe that additional food is not necessary for a potted plant until it has been in the same growing medium for at least a year. If bone meal is used when potting, the plant will benefit for many months. Experiments made by various people seem to indicate that fertilizing as we think of it is not of sufficient value to the plants to make it practical. The right compost to begin with, in conjunction with the water, should provide the plant the necessities for good growth.

We have found cans to be excellent containers. Clay pots that have been dipped in an elastic roofing paint (asphalt base) are also recommended for outdoor growing. Watering is of course reduced under these conditions.

This discussion has touched only on Cymbidiums grown in containers, but many growers prefer ground culture. Ground growing has many good features well worth considering, less care being the principal inducement.

Maintaining humidity and supplying your Cymbidiums with ample water, especially during the hot weather, is of the utmost importance for best results. The closer one is to the coast, the easier becomes one's job of providing these essentials. Also, there is less danger of damage due to freezing in this area. It becomes necessary to provide protection against freezing, although the plants can survive very cold temperatures (we have seen ours come through a 22 degree temperature) anything below 29 degrees should be cause for alarm. A dip such as that for a short period need not be alarming, but sustained for a period of time would be detrimental to the plant. Just newspapers thrown over the plants on cold nights can make a difference of several degrees. Of course your bloom spikes and flowers are more susceptible to cold.

We have been considering adult plants and back bulb propagations to this point. I would like to add here that one of the most fascinating phases of Cymbidium growing is that of growing seedlings. I'll not go into details since that would be a complete article in itself, but if one is in no hurry for blooms and wishes to gamble a bit, seedlings can be the answer. Let me say first, and most emphatically, if you buy seedlings be most selective in the crosses purchased. If you do not know the exact plants used as parents be certain you can depend upon the firm producing the crosses, so that they will be all that they are represented to be. It takes just as long to grow a seedling from poor or mediocre parents as from the very finest, and the cost of the small plants would not be an issue when compared to the rest of the investment involved.

Cymbidium growing has captured the fancy of people from all walks of life in our area. One of the first to become interested here was Mrs. W. A. Hoss. Now she and her husband have made a fine collection. E. A. Casey, while dividing his loyalty between Cattleyas and Cymbidiums, has also

(Continued on Page 10)

Mr. Fleming not only opens our eyes to the natural glories of Torrey Pines Park, but supplements with the scientific terms for these beauties.

The Annual Floral Show Among the Torrey Pines

Guy L. Fleming

The Torrey Pines area offers a Nature Reserve where the floral exhibits may be observed every month of the year. We believe the readers of CALIFORNIA GARDEN will be interested in a presentation of seasonal lists of plants that may be in flower or fruiting each month in this interesting "living museum." In this Spring issue, therefore, we introduce our readers to 25 of the conspicuous plants of January, February, March and April.

We are all familiar with the fact that California's climate is divided into two seasons—the wet and the dry—the former generally extending from October to May, the dry season occupying the remaining months of the year. The rainy season is the growing and mass flowering time of the year; the summer and early fall months are the time of fruiting and rest for the native plants.

It is our desire to inspire and encourage the reader to a true interest in botanical study, the common everyday science of the vegetable kingdom. It is our purpose to lead you to nature for the objects of each lesson.

The famous naturalist, John Burroughs, once said when asked about the study of botany: "Study it yourself in the fields and the woods, and you will find it a source of perennial delight. Find your flower and name it by the aid of the botany manual. There is so much in a name. To find what a thing is called is a great help. It is the beginning of knowledge, it is the first step. When we see a person who interests us, we wish to know his or her name. A bird, a flower, a place—the first thing we want to know is its name. Its name helps us to classify it; it gives us a handle to grasp it by. It should shed light where before was darkness. As soon as we know the name of a thing, we have established some sort of relation with it."

In general we call objects around us by single names. We speak of a stone, an owl or a pine, but to distinguish the kinds we naturally use two names, as sandstone, barn owl, Torrey Pine. This is a common way of classifying things, and it was this natural plan of double names which the great Swedish naturalist, Linnaeus, adopted when he gave the Latin form to his plant names about 200 years ago.

Most of our plants have common English names, and the same plant is often known by one name in one locality and by an entirely different name in another locality. For this reason they cannot serve for accurate identification of the plant. For this we must consult the Latin name by which it is known universally. Every plant has two Latin names: the first a generic name, similar to the last name of a person; the second a specific name, similar to a person's given name. The specific name is usually descriptive of some quality or character of the plant, the name of the place where it was found, or of its discoverer, or of a person in whose honor it was named. An example of the latter is Pinus (the generic name) Torreyana (the specific name) named for Dr. John Torrey, one of our foremost American botanists.

Another aid in learning the names of plants is that each plant family bears an English title, usually the name of its best known genus. The order Pinaceae is known as the "Pine Family" because Pinus, or the pine, is its best known genus. We learn in studying the botany manual that the genus Pinus belongs to a class called Gymnosperms, or naked seeded plants. They are the most primitive type of seed-bearing plants and the most ancient, having evolved from forms of conifers that were common forest trees millions of years ago.

Our Torrey Pines, therefore, belong to a family whose ancestors have occupied the coastal region of California probably as long as the famed Redwoods.

Unlike any other pines of North America, our pines produce their floral structures in January. The infant cones first appear as small red conelets at the ends of branches. These conelets are comprised of scales arranged in a spiral pattern, and at the base of each scale are two minute, naked, rudimentary seeds. The pollen-bearing structures form in clusters of catkins among the leafy twigs. Each catkin is made up of spirally-arranged stamens, each bearing two pollen-sacs.

By late January, or in about four weeks, the conelets have doubled in size and are about one-half inch in diameter, and bronzy-green in color. The conelets are now ready to receive the life-giving pollen, which is released by the staminate cones, or catkins,

and is carried by the wind to the small fruiting cones. When the staminate cones are ripe the slightest movement of the branches sends up clouds of golden pollen.

An exceptional characteristic of the Torrey Pines is the fact that its cones require three seasons of growth to attain maturity, whereas other American pines mature their cones in two seasons. Torrey Pine cones fertilized this year will ripen in June, 1955—their cousins, the Big Cone Pines of the Julian region, will produce conelets in March or April of this year, which will ripen by October of 1954.

The Fern Family, another class of truly ancient plant life, has four members on exhibit in our "living museum."

The California Wood Fern, Dryopteris arguta (literally, Fragrant Oak Fern) is a rare relic of a former more forested condition, and a contemporary of the Torrey Pine.

The Silver Back Fern, close relative of the Golden Back Fern, Gymnogramma triangularis, of our mountains, is found throughout the park during the early spring season. As soon as dry weather comes it folds its leaves into tight little rolls and truly disappears from the landscape.

The Bird's Foot Fern is another interesting fern which may be observed by the alert "plant watcher." Its botanical name is Pellaea ornithopus, meaning, "the dusky stemmed fern with leaves like the print of a bird's foot."

The outstanding fern exhibit during the spring months are the Polypody Ferns, Polypodium (many-footed) californicum (of California). These ferns cover many of the north-facing canyon slopes with a mantle of verdure, often decorated with the blossoms of flowering annuals.

The Grass Family has many representatives in the floral show. An outstanding member is the Coast Rye Grass, Elymus glaucus, the White Stemmed Wild Rye. This perennial grass grows to a height of six feet, and forms large clumps of interesting growth, creating a strong, contrasting note when in association with our chaparral-type plants.

Interesting members of the Lily Family are: The Star Zygadene, Zygadenus Fremontii (named for Gen. John C. Fremont). This lily-like plant grows to a height of three feet and often displays 100 or more star-shaped, greenish-yellow flowers.

Golden Stars, Bloomeria Clevelandii, is one of the interesting lilies of the park's southerly mesas. Its botanical names honor two of our pioneer botanists, H. G. Bloomer, of San Francisco, and Daniel Cleveland, of San Diego. "Golden Stars" are descriptive of the flowers of this plant.

Wild Hyacinth, Brodiaea capitata, is a genus of bulbous plants named for James Brodie, Scotch botanist. This is a common spring flower throughout the park. When growing with the support of some shrubby plant the stems of this Brodiaea may be three feet long. The dark-blue flowers form a head-like (hence the specific name) cluster of numerous blooms.

Our floral exhibit has two Mariposa (Butterfly) Lilies. One we will describe now, for it blooms in March and April. The second is a summer bloomer, therefore will be described in the Summer issue of CALIFORNIA GARDEN. Our springtime beauty is Calochortus catalinae, "the beautiful grass of Catalina." This coastal Mariposa Lily grows on the small mesas south and west of the Torrey Pines Lodge. The flowering stems are two feet high and bear large lilac, or light purple, blossoms.

A large member of the Lily Family is our perennial form of Yucca, or Spanish Bayonet. Yucca (a West Indian name) mohavensis (of the Mohave Desert) is one of several species of plants in our "Living Museum" that are "relic" representatives of a period when desert type conditions prevailed along our coastal plain. The Mohave Yucca is classed as a shrub or small tree. The oldest and largest specimens in the park are six feet tall. Each year these strange "shrubs" display large panicles, containing 100 or more creamy-white, bell-shaped flowers.

The Iris Family is represented by a small, slender-stemmed perennial which carries the mouth-filling Greek name Sisyrinchium bellum. It is not too hard to pronounce when you say "Sissy-rink-ium bellum." A free translation is, "The beautiful member of the Iris Family." Our common name for this interesting plant is "Blue-eyed Grass."

We will now pass by a number of plant families that are represented by summer blooming members, and introduce as our next group two members of the Four O'clock Family:

Our beautiful Sand-Verbena, Abronia maritima, has flowers on display nearly every month of the year, but after the rains of December-January the trailing stems of the Coast Sand-Verbena produce lenghty streamers of exquisite dark red flowers. Abronia is not a relative of the commonly cultivated verbena.

Mirablis laevis is a native Four O'clock, and somewhat resembles some of the garden forms. The foliage and flowers of this semi-shrub are contrastingly charming.

The Carpet-Weed Family has one native representative in our floral show. This is a perennial herb with branching stems several feet long. The plants form extensive mats and create an excellent ground-cover. The finger-

(Continued on Page 12)

Mrs. Comstock has such good luck developing prize-winners, her article comes as encouragement to those seeking the same success.

Growing Dahlias from Seed

Rose Marie Comstock

Did you know you could grow dahlias from seed? Well you can, and I'm sure you will have so much fun you will become an ardent fan.

First, remember to buy the very best seed obtainable. Though it may cost you a few cents more, the results will be so much better that cheap seed is hardly worth the effort. Seed is available from January 1st thru April 1st from all reputable commercial dahlia growers. In Southern California they should not be planted before March 15th for best results. To grow them properly follow this method:

Fill seed flats with a mixture 1-3 light soil, 1-3 sand and 1-3 peat moss, vermiculite or similar material. Level the mixture to about one inch from the top of the seed flat and press it firmly into the flat with a flat piece of wood or similar object. Thoroughly soak with water so that soil is wet to the bottom of the flat. Score the top of the soil criss-cross fashion to appear somewhat like a checkerboard with the lines running both ways about two inches apart, leaving an indentation in the soil about a quarter of an inch wide and a quarter inch deep. Place the seed in rows at the place where your lines cross, being careful to press them gently against the soil. Cover with about 1-4 inch of soil mixture.

Since you have soaked the soil so thoroughly before you planted the seed it will not require additional water for a day or two. Then sprinkle them lightly so that the water will not dig up your seed. Place them in a protected area or cover them for a few days with a piece of glass, as the birds will make a feast if left unprotected. Field mice will also eat them if they are not protected. *Keep the seed damp but not wet.* This is most important, since seed which is kept too wet will rot away and all that will be left in the soil will be shredded hulls. Seed will begin to germinate in about five days and all should be up within three weeks. The seedling plants are very large and sturdy from the moment they break through the soil. They grow rapidly and should be ready to transplant to the open ground in about three to four weeks.

Seedling plants can be planted closer together in rows than when planting bulbs or tubers. About 12 to 18 inches apart is satisfactory. Seedling plants should not be topped (center pinched out) but should be permitted to grow to a crown bloom at once. In this way you can tell at once whether or not the bloom is worthy of space in your plot. If it is not, the entire plant should be dug up and destroyed.

Now, if you're lucky, one of the seedlings will be so much better than anything you have seen on the market you will want to propagate it for future marketing. First you should enter it in the dahlia shows, as many shows as you can, to see what the dahlia judges think of it. The judges and your local top ranking dahlia growers will be your best critic, so take their advice.

If it does hold promise by winning on the show tables and from the favorable comments of those in the know, then you will have to grow it for three more years to be sure it will remain true. At the end of three years, you may send it to the trial grounds for scoring.

We have in the United States, five trial grounds, located in different parts of the country so that different climatic conditions will be encountered by your pet dahlia. Three bulbs of the variety must be sent to at least three of these trial grounds if you want it scored by the American Dahlia Society. A fee is charged for this service. At these trial grounds, which are usually located at one of the large agricultural colleges, the top ranking dahlia growers of the country make period checks on the dahlias growing for trial. They are scored in points for plant growth, vigor, disease resistance, height, color of foliage, bloom, size and everything else required to test its future value to prospective purchaser. At the end of the season the report of each trial ground is sent to the American Dahlia Society for tabulation. If the dahlia scored more than 85 points it is awarded a Certificate of Merit by the American Dahlia Society. And you may rest assured it has to be good to score 85 points.

There are also four growers in the United States who write the Honor Roll for four national magazines. The same procedure is followed by these four top ranking dahlia growers in scoring your variety. If it proves itself in any one of these, your variety will appear on that magazine Dahlia Honor Roll for that year. It may apear on two of these honor rolls or on three or on all four, if you are lucky.

And that is how our lovely new

(Continued on Page 10)

Marion and Henry may sometimes disagree on their authors, but together they come up with suitable quotations for the Spring months.

Leaves From The Observer's Notebook

MARION ALMY LIPPITT

We were searching diligently for a quotation appropriate to each of the coming months.

Suddenly Henry said: "Wouldn't this do for the month of June?" He looked up from the book he had taken from a pile on the sofa. He read:

"And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days;"

Leaning on the mantel piece I put my head to one side, screwed up my right eye, and repeated dreamily:

"Then Heaven tries earth if it be in tune;"

"It's hard to do better than Shakespeare," I conceded.

Henry stared at me in amazement. "Shakespeare?" he barked.

Startled, I faced him squarely. "Why, of course! It's the beginning of one of the Sonnets," I said decisively.

Henry bounced up and down on the sofa's new foam-rubber cushions like an excited child.

"Want to bet? Want to bet?" he chanted in glee.

His open book had me at an obvious disadvantage, so I capitulated with the question,

"Who's smart enough to sound like Shakespeare?"

Henry smiled at me indulgently. "James Russell Lowell," he replied. I looked incredulous.

Henry continued: "The Vision of Sir Launfal. Remember?"

Still in a fog I listened while he read,

"Whether we look or whether we listen
We hear life murmur or see it glisten."

Gazing over his shoulder I concluded with:

"The cowslip startles in meadows green
The buttercup catches the sun in its chalice
And there's never a leaf nor a blade too mean
To be some happy creature's palace."

Henry looked up and gave me such a cherubic satisfied smile that all I could say was:

"I'll settle for that, it's perfect for June. Now let's go back to the month of March. Here's my contribution for it. You guess who wrote this one?"

"Dear March, come in!
How glad I am!
I looked for you before;
You must have walked
How out of breath you are!"

Henry seemed mystified." Come again," he murmered.

I opened a book to the quotation:

"Infinite March is here. I 'heered' a bluebird today. Of course I'm standing on my head."

Henry registered a positive no. "It rings no bells," he said. "Try again."

So I read:

"Not at home to callers
Says the naked tree
Jacket due in April
Wishing you good day."

Henry's face was bland.

"Emily Dickinson," I said meekly.

Henry made a grimace of disgust. "That screwball. I should have known. I never could appreciate her."

Promptly he became engrossed in his search. "Here's one for you," he volunteered from the depths of his notebook. Gaily he read:

"As long as there are hyacinths
And scillas by the pool
As long as dogwood comes to bloom
I'll be an April fool."

I chuckled. "As you've said before, Marion Sturges Jones always comes up with a good one. That takes care of March, April and June. Now, what about May?"

Henry's self-conscious expression plainly said, "You won't approve." But his look was one of expectant supplication.

"All right, let's have it," I said resignedly.

Henry stood up, cleared his throat, and recited in a tone of deep respect:

"My mind lets go a thousand things
Like dates of wars and deaths of kings,
And yet recalls that very hour—
'Twas noon by yonder village tower
And on the last blue noon in May—
The wind came briskly up this way,
Crisping the brook beside the road;
Then pausing here, set down its load
Of pine-scents, and shook listlessly
Two petals from that wild-rose tree."

"Thomas Bailey Aldrich," I whispered, remembering he was Henry's first love.

Henry's face shown with happiness when I patted him and said "Okay, that's for May."

Miss McLouth's recommendations this season run the gamut from species of insects to flower arranging.

New Books

Ada McLouth

ARRANGING FLOWERS FROM THE ROADSIDE, FIELDS, AND WOODS, by Amelia Levitt Hill. London, New York, Studio Publications. $3.85. 1952.

In this well-organized, well-written book, the author's sincere feeling for the wildings of the plant world prompts her to warn the reader repeatedly of the necessity of observing the laws of plant protection. She includes also instructions for growing one's own wild flowers.

The general principles of flower arranging, with simple rules and practical suggestions for line and mass arrangements, types of containers and accessories, are here related to wild material that may be picked.

There are many photographs, a few in color. There are lists of plants according to soil requirements, lists of plants protected and those which may be picked, even a list of plants having lasting qualities when picked.

In all, this is an enticing book to look at, a useful book to own.

WILD FLOWERS FOR YOUR GARDEN, by Helen S. Hull, N. Y., M. Barrows & Co. $5.00. 1952.

The author believes her book to be the first in which such material has been assembled in this form.

It is divided into three main sections of which one gives two pages to the wild flowers of each State. In each case, the information, which was supplied by an authority chosen by the State President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, includes a few words about the general character of the native plants, a brief list of the most representative ones, and a drawing of one characteristic plant.

The first third of the book consists of general and particular instructions for each type of wild garden.

The final third lists plants to grow, with "Twelve favorites for a start." There follows a longer alphabetical list with directions for growing. Methods of acquiring plants, with advice for putting them into effect, are followed by a list of sources of supply.

It is well illustrated with photographs and drawings, a most attractive book and pleasant to handle, useful too, as a book of reference.

THE LILY YEARBOOK OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY. Number Five. George L. Slater, Editor. Published by the Society. Geneva, N. Y., 1952.

This Society, organized in 1947, now publishes its fifth yearbook, which, in addition to many articles on the culture of lilies in various parts of our country, gives fascinating glimpses into the adventures of plant hunters.

Dr. S. L. Emsweller gives a full account of his second trip: "Exploring for Pacific Coast Lilies of the United States." In the company of Dr. A. M. Vollmer and Lawrence Beane, he covered the same areas as before, added new locations in Northern California, with excursions into Oregon and Nevada.

We understand that Mr. Beane is working on a monograph of Pacific Coast lilies which will be his thesis for the PhD degree at Stanford University. Since Mr. Beane is an artist as well as a botanist, his monograph, when published, will include color plates, something to look forward to.

Three chapters on the native lilies of Japan, written and illustrated by a Japanese authority, include drawings copied from the work of Japanese artists of the past.

INSECTS, THE YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE, 1952. Washington, Govt. Print. Office. $2.50. 1952.

This volume, 780 pages, plus 74 pages of excellent color plates, in addition to the many photographs and drawings scattered through the text, must be seen to be appreciated.

The book has many different authors, each section of each chapter by an authority on the particular subject, with a biographical note for identification.

Very readable, one is continually tempted to turn to another part of the book as questions come to mind, and its excellent organization and index make it possible to find the answer to most questions, whether an estimate as to how many species of insects there are, or what precautions are necessary in using a certain insecticide.

The appendix includes a booklist, a directory of sources, offcials and organizations, tables for mixing sprays, a summary of Federal legislation for plant regulation, and a list of insecticides.

ANYONE CAN GROW ROSES, by Cynthia Westcott, N. Y., D. Van Nostrand. $2.75. 1952.

This book by the "plant doctor" is one any gardener will want for his own library.

Mr. Hottes' description of the Mano de Mico makes us wish that this exotic grew nearer than Los Angeles.

Devils-Hand—Chiranthodendron

ALFRED C. HOTTES

Should you be walking under a tree which at first glance would remind you of a Planetree or Sycamore, then should you happen to look up into its branches to see the bloody fingers of a devil reaching out from a scarlet flower, you might be looking at a tree held in superstitious veneration by the ancient Mexicans, and variously known as Handflower, Mano de Mico, Monkey-hand, Devils-hand, Macpalxochiquahuitl. It is *Chiranthodendron platanoides,* pronounced *ky-ran-thoden'dron lat-an-oi' deez,* the Greek for *hand flower tree* with leaves like the Platanus, or Planetree

The scarlet flowers are five-parted, cup-shaped. There is no corolla but the sepals bear the color. They are thick, leathery, and though bright red within, they are somewhat rusty without. At the base of each section of the red calyx there are concave glands which are greenish and secrete great drops of honey. The red stamens are united one-third their length, then separate into five fingers which bear linear anthers; the style of the pistil emerges from the center of the staminal column. The leaves are lobed like Platanus, often eight inches in diameter with rusty wool on the midrib, veins, and petioles. The capsules are woody, dry, five-lobed.

Culture. A number of trees are growing well in the Los Angeles area, and produce an abundant crop of flowers each year, but the flowers are inclined to be hidden by the large leaves. One can expect the trees to be wider than tall. They are grown in any place where the various "Sterculias," or Bottletrees, are grown.

Cymbidium (from Page 4)

made a noteworthy collection. Gil Ploger was perhaps the first grower in the La Jolla area which now boasts such enthusiasts as Mrs. Ruth Glendon, Harry Crosby, Carlo Galli, Mr. and Mrs. George Ash, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thorne, and the Griffing Bancrofts.

Mr. and Mrs. N. G. Lundgren of National City and the Guy Moores of Chula Vista are ardent fans. R. James Pfeiffer, Harry Risk, J. W. Phillips, and the new arrivals, Mr. and Mrs. James Carbery, all of Del Mar, are convinced that Cymbidium growing is the most interesting thing they can do.

My husband and I became completely enamoured upon seeing our first lovely Cymbidium orchid blossoms and ever since have in turn been baffled, surprised, frustrated, delighted, dejected, elated and thrilled (but never bored) by these coquettes!

P. S. Technically the so-called Cymbidium bulbs are known as pseudo-bulbs.

Based on many years of growing roses for her own pleasure, and doctoring other people's roses, her instructions are practical and explicit, even to listing brands of sprays and dusts she has found most satisfactory.

SANDERS' THE FLOWER GARDEN; rev. by A. J. Macself. London, W. H. & L. Collingridge Ltd.; N. Y., Transatlantic Arts Inc. $4.50. 1951.

Now in its third revised edition, this is an exceedingly well-written volume with brief chapters on general garden practice, followed by chapters in which the different plant groups are covered separately The arrangement makes it easy to use in looking up types of plantings, or in looking up individual plants by name through the index.

HOW TO GROW RARE GREENHOUSE PLANTS; 260 flowering varieties for amateur and florist, by Ernest Chabot. N. Y., M. arrows & Co. $4.00. 1952.

The author has covered the management of greenhouses and the more familiar plants in his earlier book, "GREENHOUSE GARDENING FOR EVERYONE."

In this book he covers certain flowering plants, most of which are familiar garden subjects in California, giving description, temperature requirements, propagation, potting, cultivation, of each, as a greenhouse item.

It is well illustrated with photographs and drawings.

Growing Dahlias (from Page 7)

dahlia "Florence Chadwick" came to be. It was sent to all five trial grounds and won a certificate of merit at all five. It was sent to all four Honor Roll Trial Grounds and won a place on all four honor rolls. At the San Diego Dahlia Society show and at the Inglewood Dahlia Show it won the American Home Achievement Medal, awarded by the American Home Magazine. Our "Florence Chadwick" is the only dahlia ever to have appeared on all four honor rolls and to have won a certificate at all five national trial grounds. That is the culmination of five years of hard work since that tiny seed was planted.

Miss Botts, librarian at Julian, extends a cordial invitation to those who would enjoy seeing the outstanding wildflower display at Julian in May.

Julian Show

MYRTLE BOTTS

One of California's unique and outstanding wildflower displays has been held each year during the month of May, for the past 26 years in the small town of Julian, an old gold mining town of the early days, which lies high above the Pacific, 60 miles from San Diego.

Each succeeding year larger, more interesting crowds have attended, coming from every state in the Union, and from many foreign countries. Some of the countries represented this year were Denmark, Hawaii, Sweden, England, Canada, Norway, Yugoslavia, India, Australia, and South America. Also many persons of prominence, and many groups attend, the Sierra Clubs being among the most interested. Last year a lady from Philadelphia spent two days at the show, photographing the flowers, to be used for a lecture tour in the east last fall. "Queen for a Day" radio program sent one of the Queens and her attendants to the wildflower show as a part of their prize.

About 2000 different flowers are displayed during the showing which lasts from two to three weeks each year. The flowers are displayed in a rotating system, as they come into bloom, about 500 varieties being on display at one time.

Many question the wisdom of picking the wildflowers, but the ladies responsible for the picking are very careful never to deplete any area, never pull up plants, or take all flowers in any one spot, and any seed found is carefully left where it can grow. The flowers have been gathered in the same areas for the full 26 years—a ten mile air line around the town, covering mountain, valley and desert, the space covered has as many and in some cases more flowers now than when the show was first started. The blooms on display are labeled with the common and botanical names. All flowers are replaced each week with fresh blossoms.

Although the show is sponsored by the Julian Woman's Club, and the ladies of the club act as hostesses, just two women are responsible for and do all the picking, displaying and naming of the flowers. These ladies are Mrs. Myrtle Botts and Mrs. Alice Blanc.

The show is entirely free, although a donation jar is on the table as many insist on giving small donations. All are welcome and any student, or person interested in making wildflower collections are welcome to spend as much time as they wish at the display and specimens of the flowers are given to them for their collections.

Written permission of property owners is necessary for picking all the flowers, and hundreds of such permits are in the possession of the two who do the work.

10,000 persons a year is the average attendance, and all have expressed their astonishment and delight at the bountiful display.

FOR BULBS AND SEEDS . . . . .

FOR GARDEN TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES . . . . . .

FOR EVERY GARDENING NEED . . . . . .

IT'S WHITNEY'S

Broadway, 5th, 6th and E. Franklin 8262

WHERE SAN DIEGANS HAVE BEEN SAVING FOR 46 YEARS!

Floral Show (from Page 6)

like leaves are three-sided, the flowers fragrant and showy; the petals a bright rose-purple. Our common name for this herb is Ice Plant and Sea Fig. The botanical names are Mesembryanthemum (Greek, midday flower) chilense. This species is at home along the seacoast from California to Chile.

Two members of the Purslane Family claim our attention. The first, Calandrina maritima, is a spreading herb with red flowers, and found growing in sandy places along the sea-bluffs. This herb is a first cousin of our garden Portulaca. The second member is Montia perfoliata, our charming Miner's Lettuce.

Silene laciniata, Indian Pink, is our showy member of the Pink Family. This is a perennial herb, branching from the base, its stems erect or climbing with support of bushes, two to five feet long. Flowers of this handsome native are bright crimson and borne at the end of the branches, sometimes in clusters.

Our spring show displays two members of the Buttercup Family, one a perennial herb, the other a climbing shrub.

The herb member is Delphinium decorum, Coast Blue Larkspur, with spikes of deep blue flowers. The shrub member is Clematis lasiantha, Pipe-Stem Clematis. It clambers over shrubs, often brightening a hillside with its profusion of creamy-yellow flowers.

One of the first flowers of the New Year is Dentaria californica, which children call "Milk Maids." These plants, of the Mustard Family, grow in profusion on northerly slopes and beneath the shrub cover. Their white or pale-rose colored flowers are particularly conspicuous when growing among the Polypody Ferns. Another mustard cousin is our Western Wallflower, Erysimum capitatum. This is a biennial herb with stout stems, sometimes two feet tall, and bears clusters of bright yellow flowers.

The floral show exhibits two representatives of the Poppy Family. Dendromecon rigida, literally "the Stiff-Stemmed Tree Poppy," is one of the show plants of the "museum." When in full flower it is a rich display of golden-yellow blossom.

Eschscholtzia californica, The California Poppy, is an annual cousin of the Tree Poppy, adding its golden glow to many a hillslope of mixed floral exhibits.

Isomeris arborea, Bladder-Pod, is a unique member of the Caper Family, and another "relic" shrub of a former desert climate.

Ribes speciosum, Fuchsia-Flowered Gooseberry, is the handsome representative of the Saxifrage Family. This is a tall shrub, which may attain a height of 10 feet. The fuchsia-like flowers are crimson. This is an ideal native for a well-drained rock garden.

One of the especially interesting shrubs of the spring showing of native flowers is Cneoridium dumosum, (the generic name is pronounced "knee-rid-ium"). The somewhat strong, but pleasant odor of the leaves of this plant have suggested the name "Spice Bush." This shrub belongs to the Rue Family and is really a distant relative of the Orange. The white, four-petaled flowers resemble tiny orange blossoms.

Euphorbia misera, member of the Spurge Family, is another of the unusual "desert type relics" of this "out-of-doors museum." It may be observed in a very limited section of the western portion of the park.

Leptosyne maritima, Sea Dahlia, may be considered the outstanding representative of the Sunflower Family in the Torrey Pines area. This plant grows in great profusion beneath the pine trees and on the canyon slopes, and decorates the landscape with its large, golden-yellow flowers.

To be continued in the Summer Number of CALIFORNIA GARDEN.

OUR 65th ANNIVERSARY

Mission Valley Nursery has served San Diego gardeners for sixty-five years. "Everything you need for your garden."

Mission Valley Nursery
Mission Valley Road West
Phone: T-2648

Mr. Atherton first gives advice about growing the lovely camellia, and follows it up by telling us that part of the fun of growing this plant is the fact that we can do almost anything we like with it.

How Do You Fertilize Your Camellias?

Lucien C. Atherton

How many times have you seen some anxious amateur with worry and perplexity in his face approach an old-time camellia grower or nurseryman, and ask what fertilizer to use, and when, and how? How many times have you seen the old-timer assume that sage and knowing expression which one might expect of a presiding justice about to pass judgment on a social problem of universal moment? He then launches into a dissertation on fertilization, and winds up laying down the cosmos with an air of finality which brooks no dissent.

All this leaves the poor amateur in a state of bewilderment, and wondering if he had best return to his geraniums.

Rubbish! Nonsense! There is no more occasion for worrying over camellia fertilization than there is for worrying to put on the front yard grass, and when to do it. You and I have seen plenty of fine blooming camellias that have had no fertilizer in years, if ever.

Don't misunderstand, we are not recommending that you refrain from fertilizing your camellias. Oh, no! What we do say is that too much time is spent trying to make an easy job difficult, and that almost any high-grade fertilizer used in moderation will be acceptable to your camellias, and benefit them.

It is like feeding a child. Dr. Holt's book on the "Care and Feeding of Children" is a splendid work, and should be in every home. But don't forget that countless millions of children have grown to rugged manhood and womanhood under the watchful eyes of mothers who were unable to read Dr. Holt's book. Or, for that matter, were unable to read, but who were possessed of the priceless gift of common sense.

So with your camellias. Give them barnyard. Give them steer. Give them commercial. Give them cottonseed meal. All in moderate quantities during the growing season, and they will reward you with bloom. Or, if you get too busy and fail to feed them, don't worry. They will bloom just the same, although, perhaps not as freely, nor as satisfactorily. The point is, stop worrying and enjoy your camellias.

It's Fun to Grow Camellias

Perhaps it is the striking loveliness of the camellia flower in its numberless color and form combinations, some simple, some dainty, some stately. Perhaps it is the beauty of the shrub with its year round rich verdant green foilage and handsome form. Perhaps it is the abundance with which this native of the Orient rewards its master in the new home so far away from its place of origin. Perhaps it is the romantic mysticism which surrounds the history of this prize of princes. Perhaps it is a combination of all these which so delights the collector of camellias.

Why not? What, we ask, in the whole field of horticulture is so adaptable to all the varying conditions found here in our southland, and requires so little, but gives so much?

This will bear repeating. What requires so little and gives so much?

It is the writer's personal guess that the principal reason for the well deserved popularity of the camellia is the simplicity of its culture, and the ease with which it adapts itself to its surroundings.

It may be conceded that there are many rules for camellia culture—almost as many rules as there are persons who write them. It may also be conceded that not all of these rules are necessary, or, in fact, desirable.

Let us examine some of them. Certainly one of the most frequently voiced rules of culture has to do with the soil mix. Now, what is the mystery? We firmly believe that if ten successful growers were assembled to consider soil mixtures, at least eight of the ten would have his own very special mix. And the amusing part of it is that they would all be good ones. All the formulae would produce excellent camellias. Not so long ago one of our foremost growers advocated pure peat moss; another one practically pure silt. Others recommend varying percentages of just what you and I would use, viz., a suitable combination of soil, leaf mold, peat moss, and coarse sand, or fine gravel for better drainage. The whole point is that this hardy, adaptable camellia plant which we are now discussing doesn't seem to mind at all if we get too much or too little of this or that in the soil mix. Maybe that's what makes it fun to grow them.

Mrs. Clark answers her own question, and has us convinced that our entry must be on time for the big show on May 23 and 24.

Why Another Flower Show?

ALICE M. CLARK

What is a flower show? Is it the dandelion, clutched in a hot little fist, that the toddler waves before his mother's eyes, or the superlative floriculture of commercial artists at the California International Flower Show in Inglewood during the week of March 14? Is it the upsurge of that pagan instinct that greeted the coming of spring with flower-bedecked dancers and the time of the grape harvest in the fall with a Bacchic festival? Is it the one-day exhibit in the Floral Building on April 19 of the best blooms grown by the members of the Convair Garden Club in their spare time or a whole show of the cream-of-the-rose crop presented by the San Diego Rose Society in Recital Hall on April 11 and 12? A flower show is each and all of these, and more. It is the desire of an artist in any field to show his handicraft even as the Creator surveyed His world and found it good, but, because a gardner works with Nature as an inspiring but unpredictable partner, the results he displays are something of a mystic triumph, hence the uplifting appeal of a flower show.

The pattern of a flower show adjusts to conditions just as we go from automobiles to airplanes in the fast pace of transportation. The energetic amateur and professional gardeners who founded the San Diego Floral Association in April, 1906, held their first show in the autumn of the next year and in October, 1909, celebrated the opening of the U.S. Grant Hotel with an outstanding garden show in its Palm Court. After the Exposition of 1915, the shows blossomed into large popular affairs in Balboa Park, supplemented by smaller displays of geraniums in May and chrysanthemums in October, in the more intimate setting of the Floral Building. With World War II, all except small schedules were cancelled. The Chrysanthemum Festival in the Tea Pavilion in the Park in 1948 marked the first return to normal.

The S.D.F.A. was the garden voice of the community until the age of specialization prompted single flower groups to organize for the study and exhibition of their favorites at appropriate times. Now camellias open the show season, succeeded by orchids, roses, fuchsias, begonias, dahlias and late roses. Out of these have come several important "firsts" for this community. Harvey Short of Ramona won top honors for his initial showing of "Bride's Bouquet" in the Camellia Show here last year. It has since received the coveted Margarete Hertrick Award. A year ago, in the August Dahlia Show, Paul and Rose Marie Comstock unveiled their hybrid white dahlia, "Florence Chadwick," which has now been awarded the Derril W. Hart Memorial Gold Medal, the only dahlia ever to have won five simultaneous awards at five test gardens. It will blossom in the Royal Garden of London this year. Two local begonia hybrids won best in their class in Los Angeles Begonia Shows.

As the city has developed, numerous suburban garden clubs have swelled the list of general shows. Among others, this will give Encinitas growers an opportunity to feature the outstanding gladiolus hybrids of 91-year-old Elizabeth Briggs, who has won two gold medals for her work, and the flaming red beauties of Paul Ecke which have given him the title of "Poinsettia King." Horner's nursery in National City has some fine pelargoniums to its credit. If it were not for the stimulation of shows there would be no chance to view these new creations that make us so proud of local talent.

In unsophisticated days, flowers were something you enjoyed in the "yard," as it was called, and sometimes cut for the house. Arrangement, outside or inside, was of minor consideration. As the art of interior decoration progressed, the correct placement of flowers in appropriate containers became a real study. Then it was that flower arrangements were emphasized on show schedules.

In earlier times we relaxed on the front porch or on the worn grass in the shade of a tree, if the flies and mosquitoes were not too bad. With better insect control today, the whole side of a room may be opened so that the outdoors becomes an extension of the living area and there is less need for flower arrangements except on dining tables and for festive occasions. However, good design is a must for the fullest enjoyment of this outside space.

In these days of high costs, a planned garden yields greater dividends for the space, money and effort expended, and faster returns because of the knowledge of what, how, where and when to plant. So we come to a practical reason for *another* flower show—one that will give a full-scale demonstration of the use to which some of our wealth of plant materials may be put in actual garden plans. If our home surroundings are improved, the whole city will be beautified.

On May 23 and 24, in the Recital Hall of

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
ITS FORTY-SECOND
SPRING FLOWER SHOW
RECITAL HALL, BALBOA PARK • MAY 23 and 24
ADMISSION 25 CENTS
Patio Garden on Stage • Lath Garden for Shade Plants
Plants for Summer Color • Dining Tables
Hours: Saturday, 1 p.m.-9 p.m. • Sunday, 10 a.m-6 p.m.

SESSIONS'
Garden Store & Nursery
everything for a more beautiful garden
1005 Torrey Pines Road
La Jolla
G-5-4242

"Enjoy A Glimpse of the Tropics" at
Williams & Macpherson
Subtropical Nursery
Plant Materials to Solve Your Planting Problems
Phone
Encinitas 2244
Highway 101
Encinitas, Calif.

Point Loma Nursery
Farmer's Market
★
Plenty of Drive-In Parking Space
★
2790 Midway Drive
Bayview 8450

Balboa Park, with the assistance of local nurserymen, the S.D.F.A. will present a 20 by 50 foot patio garden on the stage and a large shade garden on the terrace below. Another section will be devoted to tea, buffet, dining and patio tables. All this, in addition to Civic entries and a large list of general classes, is offered for the same admission as that of 40 years ago—25 cents!

There will be no prizes or judging. Everyone is urged to exhibit even a single bloom. Garden clubs, especially those who give no shows, are earnestly solicited to fill a part of the floor plan. The reward will be the sense of well-being that comes from sharing and co-operating in a good cause.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

A. GERANIUMS
1. Single-flowered
2. Double-flowered
3. Variegated-leaf
4. Scented leaf
5. Ivy-leaf
6. Rare or unusual
7. Any of above in pots

B. PELARGONIUMS
8. Lady Washington

C. BEGONIAS
9. Fibrous cane
10. Fibrous hirsute
11. Rhizomatous
12. Tuberous
13. Bedding
14. Miscellaneous

D. OTHER SHADE PLANTS
15. Ferns
16. Fuchsias
17. Epiphyllums
18. Saintpaulias
19. Gloxinias
20. Streptocarpus
21. Semi-tropical evergreens

E. PERENNIALS
22. Roses
23. Carnations
24. Delphiniums
25. Iris
26. Other perennials

F. BULB and CORM TYPES
27. Agapanthus
28. Gladiolus
29. Watsonias
30. Miscellaneous

G. ANNUALS
31. Petunias, poppies, etc.

H. HERBS
32. Annual or perennial

I. SUCCULENTS
33. Dish Garden
34. Specimens in pots

J. VINES
35. Blossoming spray

K. SHRUBS
36. Flowering stem

L. TREES
37. Flowering branch

M. GARDEN PRODUCE
38. Fruits
39. Berries
40. Vegetables

N. TABLE SETTINGS
41. Tea
42. Dinner
43. Buffet
44. Patio

O. CLUB ENTRIES
45. Any class

P. CIVIC ENTRIES
46. Any class

Q. SERVICE ENTRIES
47. Any class

R. PROFESSIONAL
48. Cut flowers, any class
49. Potted plants, any class
50. Tables, any class
51. Garden materials used in a landscape design

S. COMMERCIAL
52. Fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and garden equipment

SHOW RULES

1. There will be no prizes or judging.

2. Show will be open from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, May 23, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 24.

3. Clerks will be on duty at 8 a.m., Saturday. All entries must be made by 10 a.m. on that morning.

4. Make as many entries as possible. Call numbers listed above to reserve space.

5. Containers will be provided for cut specimens. Other containers should be plainly marked with name of the owner.

6. Oblong and some round tables available for table settings. Omit silver. Tea tables should be furnished by the exhibitors. For size and early reservations, call Mrs. Samuel Durr, B-5818.

7. It will be appreciated if exhibitor can furnish the name of the entry and replacements if flowers fade the next day.

8. Exhibits will be received and placed by a committee and cannot be removed by anyone until AFTER the show is closed at 6 p.m. Sunday. Not responsible for material unclaimed by 11 a.m. Monday.

9. The committee will take every precaution to safeguard exhibits but the Association cannot be held responsible for loss or damage.

10. For information and reservations, telephone: Mrs. George Gardner, B-3778, or Mrs. De Forrest Ward, W-2797.

RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP
★
Potted Plants for Spring
and
All Seasonal Flowers
★
2140 Fourth Avenue Franklin 7101

S & H Green Stamps
Millar Seed Co.
•
All Kinds of Bulbs
Birds
Goldfish
Ceramics
733 Broadway Main 0219

STATIONERS CORPORATION
1055 Sixth Ave. F-1344

Walter Andersen's Nurseries
NURSERY STOCK
and
GARDEN SUPPLIES
for
BEAUTIFUL GARDENS
We specialize in Indoor Plants
The most complete stock in the city
3860 Rosecrans Phone W-6231

Making easier your—

Garden Chores

Ada Perry

It really isn't nice to spoil our Sunday breakfast like that. We're hard-working nursery people and we keep up with the plant ads while swallowing our prunes and pumpernickel. So here are these fine-print blurbs from the medicine men of the plant world: the choice hybrids for only about twice what they'd cost at your favorite nursery. Real recent, too. Only came out about two years ago, the newest of them.

And they're such hybridy-hybrids that a thing like budding doesn't even enter the picture. And they bloom so profusely that it doesn't matter that this occurs about two weeks out of the 52. And good things come in small packages, so when they arrive they are all of six inches long.

People like to send for things. America has a marvelous postal system. It's fun to receive a package of plants.

But there are jim-dandy California nurseries who will send you the very finest of newest varieties upon receipt of an order form. And fair payment, just like you'd want in your business. You don't have to depend on the hubba-hubba men of the nursery business for a mail order thrill.

As for us, we'll go on reading those things Sunday morns and reaching for the soda before we go off to open the gates. The fascination of the utterly horrible.

Enough of this and perhaps too much. But it is spring and we're all human and don't stop to think before we buy in the full tide of the year

I know I'm supposed to remind you of things you'll be real disappointed to forget. Petunias, phlox, zinnias and asters and marigolds. Dahlias, chrysanthemums and tuberous begonias. These are the flowers now.

There's a new petunia called Comanche and another called Lipstick. That can't be cuter than the little cluster rose called Lipstick. The latest of asters is, to name one, the super giant strain. Every effort has been made to increase its wilt-resistance score.

The new lavender alyssum Royal Carpet is an instant hit.

By the way, if you can't obtain plants of these new '53 flowers, it isn't always the bedding plant grower's fault, he says, says the man. Seed of the newcomers is rationed out to growers. And they don't get it until some say "go." That's what I'm told.

Of course, that gives you an out to try the seeds and I wouldn't wonder but what that's the idea.

I know a very nice seed sowing story, too. It concerns the boss-lady down where I work. Seems once she had a ranch and a housekeeper and a big, beautiful plot of prepared ground all in the same spring. So she sowed seeds of everything she wanted in that plot, but had the feeling all along that she was not alone in the enterprise. It was only by degrees that the situation unfolded with twice as many flowers as she'd planted. The housekeeper had been planting, too. The seeds were all broadcast and naturally any planting scheme contemplated by either party had been nullified by the other.

"But," said boss-lady, "it was the most beautiful flower garden I ever saw."

This season's vegetables are the tomatoes, peppers, beans and squash. Leaf lettuce and romaine are best for greens, unless you count cucumbers as greens.

Anything, but anything, you want in shrubs and trees goes. We have more tree-conscious people every year and many of them are beginning to understand that care like you'd give a blooded dog, cat, heifer or horse, makes a tree grow faster and bigger and glossier too. It's pointed out that if you keep the lower portions of your framework clipped of foliage, you can look out through them. It's also possible to train the trunk up above the window area if you keep trimming and tying systematically.

There's the nicest little evergreen maple in town this year, acer paxi. Has yellow flowers, too, and the pretty green leaves stay on through cold and rain just like it's warm and dry.

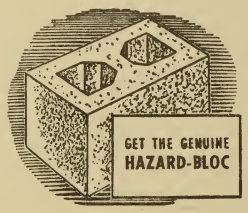
"But, of course," says the salesman, "you don't get the maple fall color."

Another way of saying that cake proverb, but those leaves are so pretty, you don't mind the proverb. Do wonder what Miss Kate Sessions thought of this tree. Don't believe I ever heard her say. I'm pretty sure I'd remember it if I had.

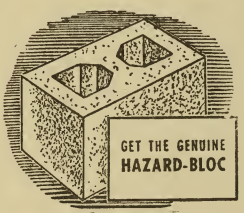
You know those flowering-fruiting peaches seem to be really something. But you should keep the trees low and you should thin the fruit to enjoy its real quality. The instructions are to thin the fruit to one every 10 or 12 inches, when they are the size of marbles. Or they'll stay the size of marbles. So we've thought of a naughty way to tease you reluctant fruit-thinners, thusly, "Do you want to raise fruit, or play marbles?"

You know something? Better pick out your crab grass control and start using it about March this year.

This Spring beautify your garden with



HAZARD-BLOC

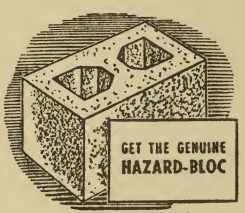


*HAZARD-BLOC is economical, makes it possible to construct rugged-looking attractive garden walls at low cost.

*HAZARD-BLOC is precision-made. When you build with Hazard-Bloc, you know that every block is exactly alike.

*HAZARD-BLOC is weather-proof and sturdy. Hazard-Bloc is earthquake-resistant and termite-proof.

*Call Jackson 0051 today for free information. Beautify your Garden this Spring with Durable Hazard-Bloc.



Hazard Concrete Products, Inc.

Friars Road and Cabrillo Freeway **Jackson 0051**

POSTMASTER:
Return Postage Guaranteed.
San Diego Floral Association
Balboa Park, San Diego 1, Calif.

Redwood for your patio!

as illustrated

- **Chair $8.95**
- **Chaise $26.95**
  (with knife-edge pad $23.95)
- **End Table $5.50**

Muehleisen's, house of fine patio furnishings and accessories for your barbecue, offer these specially selected items of sturdy redwood . . . designed to make your garden patio a comfortable and wonderful place to relax after pruning and spraying chores are completed.

Muehleisen's

MANUFACTURERS OF TENTS AND AWNINGS SINCE 1907

Store Hours:
Daily 8 to 5
Sat. 9 to 4

Market at Union
Franklin 9-8171

WATSON-JONES CO., SAN DIEGO, CAL.